

- In April of 1846 Waukesha County was formed with sixteen townships. Supervisors representing each of the sixteen towns were elected to organize a county board, elect officers and to provide for and build necessary county buildings.
- In 1965, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court ruled that county boards must equitably represent the population, and the Waukesha County Board switched to supervisory districts that represented an equal number of citizens, rather than the units system used previously.
- In April of 1990, a new form of county government was established. The first county executive was elected by the voters of Waukesha County to be responsible for the administrative functions of county government. The county board reorganized to better reflect this new form of governing. The county executive also has the ability to veto actions of the county board, and to appoint members to advisory boards and commissions.